Conference of Public Enterprises has recently drawn up a dynamic action programme to make the organisation more effective in raising the performance and productivity of the public sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b). The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) have informed that they have constituted a Committee to review the functioning of SCOPE and that the matter is under consideration.

Purchase of Raw Jute from Jute Corporation of India

1864. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Mills have refused to buy raw jute from the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action against the mill owners for resorting to lock-outs, closures and retrenchments;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) As a matter of policy, the Jute Corporation of India sells raw jute to mills in the private sector against guaranteed terms of payment. There is no compulsion for mills in the private sector to buy raw jute from the Jute Corporation of India.

(b) to (d) Matters pertaining to lock-out/closure come under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and under the said Act, the State Government is the appropriate authority for dealing with such matters. It is understood that bipartite and tripartite conciliation proceedings are already in an advanced stage in the case of a number of closed jute mills. Some mills have also reopened.

Prevention of Unauthorised Shipment by Garment Exporters

1865. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started sending lists of garment exporters to Customs officers to prevent unauthorised shipment of goods to other countries; and

(b) if so, what are the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The Apparel Export Promotion Council has started sending on a daily basis a list of certifications given by them for exports of readymade garments to U.S.A. to the Customs Officials at all Regional Centres where such certification is given by the Council for cross reference by the Customs while clearing shipments.

(b) This has been done to facilitate cross reference of the documents by the Customs while clearing shipments. So far no unauthorised shipments have been identified after the Council has started sending the list.

Pre-takeover liabilities of taken over Units

1866. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take a decision soon on the desirability of the clause on pre-takeover liabilities regarding taken over units;

(b) whether he had assured this to an all-Party delegation of MLAs of West Bengal recently in New Delhi;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken in this regard?